

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are all the claims pending in this application. New dependent claims 25 and 26 have been added, support for which can be found at page 20, page 25 and in the Examples of the present specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, nor indicated that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Since the priority documents were submitted on April 24, 2001, Applicants respectfully request that Applicants' claim to priority be acknowledged in the next communication to Applicants.

In addition, in the Response filed April 16, 2002, Applicants requested the Examiner to indicate whether the drawings are accepted or objected to by the Examiner. However, no such indication was made. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on April 24, 2001, have been accepted or objected to in the next communication to Applicants.

I. Response to Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (4,794,463) in view of Higuchi et al. (5,539,440).

In addition, claims 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (4,794,463) in view of Higuchi et al (5,539,440), as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Carley (4,314,263).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reason that one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Tamura et al. and Higuchi et al.

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As noted in the previous response, Tamura et al. is directed to an ink jet printing apparatus that uses an electrostatic field. Specifically, an electrostatic field is generated between the ink jet head 1 and cylindrical back electrode 2.

In contrast, Higuchi et al. is directed to an image forming apparatus having a drum 1 with an ink holding layer 2 formed on the surface of drum 1. A charge supplying section 6 selectively supplies charges to the ink held in the ink holding regions 3a on the basis of an image signal and the selected ink held on the ink holding layer 2 is transferred onto a printing medium 8.

Therefore, Tamura et al. and Higuchi et al. are directed to different types of image forming apparatus.

Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Tamura et al. and Higuchi et al.

That is, Tamura et al. is directed to an electrostatic type ink jet apparatus that does not require a fixing step (col. 1, lines 10-14). Higuchi et al. does not have any relation to ink jet recording processes (see col. 2, line 46 and col. 16, lines 37-39 where it is indicated that the process is distinct from an ink jet recording process). In this regard, Higuchi et al. discloses that an object is to provide a means for obtaining a printed image by forming ink pixels "without using a nozzle for discharging an ink". See col. 2, lines 43-46.

Thus, there is no technical motivation in either reference for one of ordinary skill in the art would to combine the teachings of these two references to arrive at the present invention.

Furthermore, Tamura et al. actually teaches away from fixing an image. Tamura

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et al. discloses that since the ink is caused to be attached directly to the recording sheet, neither developing nor fixing processes are necessary. See col. 1, lines 10-14. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Tamura et al. by including a fixing step.

Moreover, Carley fails to make up for the deficiencies of Tamura et al. and Higuchi et al.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Tamura et al. and Higuchi et al. fail to teach or suggest the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the foregoing §103 rejections is requested.

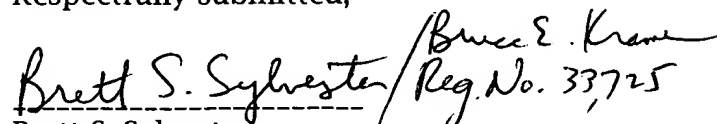
II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 25 and 26 are added as new claims.